

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00  
H-02 NSC-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:SMKLINGAMAN:LR

APPROVED BY EUR/CE:WWOESSNER

EUR/P:WGEHRON

EUR/RPM:JHAWES (INFO)

-----085039 041546Z /46

O R 041528Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

CINCUSAREUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TA : MPOL, NATO, US, GW

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SUBJECT: EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON US DEFENSE STRATEGY

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM TRANSCRIPT STATE DEPARTMENT  
PRESS SPOKESMAN'S AUGUST 3 NOON BRIEFING: BEGIN TEXT.

Q. JOHN, IS IT THE CASE, AS REPORTED IN THE MORNING  
NEWSPAPERS BY TWO OF THE COLUMNISTS, THAT THE UNITED  
STATES IS ON THE VERGE OF ADOPTING A POLICY WHICH WOULD

CONCEDE THE EASTERN THIRD OF WEST GERMANY TO SOVIET  
INVASION AND SEEK TO TURN BACK THE SOVIETS BY APPLYING  
POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE?

A. SCOTT, LET ME ANSWER YOU LIKE THIS, IN COMMENT ON  
THAT, ON THE ARTICLE ABOUT WHICH YOU'RE TALKING: IT  
IS US POLICY TO ENGAGE IN THE FORWARD DEFENSE OF ALL OF  
WESTERN EUROPE. THAT LONGSTANDING POLICY, WHICH HAS  
BEEN SHAPED JOINTLY WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, REMAINS

UNCHANGED IN ITS TOTALITY.

Q. COULD YOU GO A LITTLE SLOWER, PLEASE?

A. YES. THAT LONGSTANDING POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN SHAPED  
JOINTLY WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, REMAINS UNCHANGED IN ITS  
TOTALITY.

NOW, THAT'S ALL I'M REALLY PREPARED TO SAY ON IT. I  
COULD ADD ON BACKGROUND--AND I THINK YOU'LL BE HEARING  
THIS AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS WELL, SHOULD YOU CARE TO ASK  
THEM LATER TODAY--THAT THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO  
MR. BRZEZINSKI IN THE COLUMN BY ANONYMOUS SOURCES ARE  
PARTIAL, INACCURATE, AND DEAL ONLY WITH ONE ASPECT OF  
THE OVERALL DEFENSE STRATEGY THAT MIGHT BE APPLIED IN  
THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK ON WESTERN EUROPE.

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THAT'S THE END OF THE BACKGROUND.

Q. DEAL WITH --? SORRY. WITH ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE  
OVERALL --?

Q. STRATEGY IN WHAT?

A. DEFENSE STRATEGY--THE OVERALL DEFENSE STRATEGY--

Q. YES.

A. --THAT MIGHT BE APPLIED IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK ON  
WESTERN EUROPE.

AND, AGAIN, THAT'S THE END OF THE BACKGROUND--REPEAT.

NOW, I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DIRECT ALL YOUR  
OTHER QUESTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT OR  
THIS COLUMN TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. PARTIAL--YOU MEAN THAT'S ONLY PART OF WHAT HE SAID?

A. I WOULD INTERPRET IT THAT WAY.

Q. THAT WORD, YOU MEAN?

A. YES. IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S--

Q. THAT HE SAID MORE ABOUT THE SAME THING THAT IS NOT REPORTED?

A. I'LL HAVE TO STOP THERE, MURREY; BUT I THINK ON BACKGROUND THAT'S PROBABLY A PRETTY CORRECT INTERPRETATION; "PARTIAL" MEANS PARTIAL, THAT--

Q. THAT HE DID SAY MUCH MORE ABOUT WHAT IS REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAN IS REPORTED?

A. WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE HE SAID. I THINK I'D BETTER LEAVE IT JUST THE WAY IT IS.

Q. AND THAT WHAT IS REPORTED IS INACCURATE--THE PART THAT IS REPORTED IS INACCURATE?

A. WELL, I SAID THE STATEMENTS--AND THIS, AGAIN, IS STILL ON BACKGROUND--THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MR. BRZEZINSKI ARE PARTIAL, INACCURATE, AND DEAL ONLY WITH ONE ASPECT.

Q. I KNOW. I READ THE SAME WORDS. BUT I WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE WORDS MEANT.

A. WELL, AS I SAY, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE, MARVIN. THEY ARE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION IN SOME FURTHER DETAIL.

Q. MAY I ASK THE QUESTION ALONG THIS LINE, PLEASE: THIS LONGSTANDING POLICY WORKED OUT WITH THE NATO ALLIES UNCHANGED IN TOTALITY--WAS THERE CONCERN THAT THERE MAY BE NEED TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT MIGHT BE CHANGED, AND THAT'S WHY THERE WAS A DISCUSSION OF IT?

A. DICK, I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU ASK THOSE QUESTIONS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. WHY PUT ON BACKGROUND SOMETHING THAT--I MEAN, DO WE HAVE TO RESPOND TO ANONYMOUS SOURCES WITH ANONYMOUS FACELESS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THAT PART IS ON BACKGROUND. I UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD THINK THAT SOMEBODY WOULD BE WILLING TO STAND  
BEHIND THAT.

WELL, GRAHAM, I'LL PUT THAT ON THE RECORD.

Q. THANK YOU.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SMKLINGAMAN:LR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009